

## Mayor's Message

December 2012

I love the month of December in Murray City. The hustle and bustle of shoppers fills the streets and businesses. Lights shine in festive displays. A desire to share and concern for others seems to be especially evident during the holiday season. This is a great time to enjoy traditional gatherings with family and friends.

Some of those traditions have their roots in Murray City. The tree in front of City Hall is lit and is a symbol of the season. You may notice that it is a little smaller this year than in the past. Several residents asked why we cut down a tree to bring to this spot each year and then remove it after the holiday. This has been a long standing tradition as a way to help someone with a tree that needed to be taken out of a yard for some reason. In response to their concern, we adjusted the tradition a little and planted a new tree in this location. We hope having a living tree will make up for its short stature.

Another tradition may be attending the Murray Symphony Christmas Concert. It will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Murray High School. The concert will include the Symphony along with the 100 member Mapleton Chorale, who have performed around the country and have an excellent reputation. The groups will be collecting canned food for the Utah Food Bank. This will be a sure way to bring the spirit of Christmas to your heart.

Whatever traditions you may have and enjoy, if I could make a wish for each of us this holiday, it would be that we find a way to reach out to our neighbors. Can you think of a service you could provide and offer along with a smile? Being a good neighbor isn't always easy. It takes patience, tolerance, kindness and concern. Each time we exercise one of those virtues, we strengthen the fiber of our community. It starts with each of us being willing to help weave that strong cloth of cohesiveness. I am thankful for each of you who take the challenge of being a good neighbor seriously.

Thank you for your contributions to our community. Your good deeds make Murray 'merry and bright' year round. May you have a wonderful, safe and peaceful holiday!